

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A process for the preparation of functionalized silica, said functionalized silica having at least one functional group fixed on the surface of said silica, the group being selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl, glycidyloxypropylsilyl and mixtures thereof, said method consisting of:

 optionally spraying the silica with water or dilute acid, then
 spraying with a surface modification reagent or a mixture of surface modification reagents in a mixing vessel,
 mixing the silica and the surface modification reagent(s),
 optionally re-mixing the silica and the surface modification reagent(s) for 15 to 30 minutes, and
 heating the silica and the surface modification reagent(s) at a temperature of 100 to 400 °C over a period of 1 to 6 h.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A functionalized silica, having at least one functional group fixed on the surface of said silica, the group being selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl, glycidyloxypropylsilyl and mixtures thereof;

 wherein the silica is produced by flame hydrolysis; and
 wherein the functionalized silica is prepared by a process consisting of:
 optionally spraying the silica with water or dilute acid, then
 spraying with a surface modification reagent or a mixture of surface modification reagents in a mixing vessel,

mixing the silica and the surface modification reagent(s),
optionally re-mixing the silica and the surface modification reagent(s) for 15 to 30 minutes, and
heating the silica and the surface modification reagent(s) at a temperature of 100 to 400 °C over a period of 1 to 6 h.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 9 wherein the surface modification agent is a member selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryltrialkoxysilane, glycidyltrialkoxysilane and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A surface coating with a coating containing the functionalized silica according to Claim 10.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A coating composition comprising the functionalized silica of Claim 10 and a solvent.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A coating composition for preparing a scratch resistant coating on a surface, comprising the functionalized silica according to Claim 10 and a polyurethane.